

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The strategy for the VIII plan provides for strict prioritisation in funding for completion of on-going projects. also, planning Commission has decided to vigorously follow earmarking of outlays for different irrigation projects.

Elights from Calcutta

3974. SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign airlines have been contemplating flights to and from Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). As a result of efforts made by Government, the Romanian airline started operating to Calcutta some time ago. Similarly, it has been agreed that KLM would also operate a flight to Calcutta.

Hirakund Dam

3975. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned and released for the modernisation of Hirakund dam during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount sanctioned for 1991-92 and 1992-93, respectively; and

(c) the areas likely to be benefited therefrom.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) Nil.

(b) An amount to Rs. 0.88 crores was spent during 1990-91 and an outlay of Rs. 1.5 crores was recommended by the Planning commission for 1991-92. The State Government had proposed an only of Rs. 2 crores for 1992-93.

(c) The project envisages improvement in irrigation in about 20% of the total ayacut of 155428 hectares.

Telephone Connection to Villages

3976. SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages which have so far been provided telephone connections as on date; and

(b) the number of villages which are expected to be covered during 1992-93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 61,330 panchayat Villages as on 29th February, 1992.

(b) Yet to be finalised.

Postal Circle for Districts of Orissa

3977. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to sanction another Postal Circular for the districts of Balasore, Keonjhor and Mayurbhan; and